

HOUSE RESOLUTION 198

By Maggart

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the Junior League of Nashville upon the celebration of its 90th anniversary.

WHEREAS, the Association of Junior Leagues International is an organization of women committed to promoting volunteerism, developing the potential of women, and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers since its formation in 1921. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable; and

WHEREAS, the Junior League reaches out to women of all races, religions, and national origins who demonstrate an interest in and commitment to voluntarism to engage them in meaningful activities in their communities that will enrich the lives of women, children, and families; and

WHEREAS, with approximately three hundred Junior League organizations throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Great Britain, the Junior League of Nashville is the 12th largest of the Leagues, and during the springtime of this year, the Junior League of Nashville will celebrate its 90th anniversary; and

WHEREAS, in 1922 and under the leadership of its first president, Cornelia Keeble Ewing, the Junior League of Nashville was formed and admitted into the Association of Junior Leagues International; and

WHEREAS, indicative of the fervor with which the fledgling Junior League of Nashville launched itself, the organization's second president, Frances Dudley, persuaded the Association of Junior Leagues of America to hold its 1926 national conference in Nashville, which was, in fact, the first conference of the organization held outside of New York City; and

WHEREAS, over the nine decades of its existence, the Junior League of Nashville has been a high profile organization responsible for countless acts of altruism and benevolence that have enriched the Nashville community; and

WHEREAS, during the 1920s, the organization opened a home for crippled children and later built a new facility for this purpose on White Avenue; the annual Paper Sale to raise funds for the project was begun, and to this day, this activity continues and is known as Friends of Vanderbilt University Children's Hospital Paper Sale; and

WHEREAS, during the 1930s, exposing children to theatre and arts was a major thrust of the Junior League of Nashville, and the organization gave great support to the establishment of The Nashville Academy Theatre, as well as supporting ventures in local radio programming for children; and

WHEREAS, the next two decades saw the organization push evermore fervently to meet the needs of disadvantaged children suffering from crippling conditions, and the reach of the Junior League of Nashville widened as it provided seed funding for a new mental health organization. In 1956, Dede Wallace Mental Health Center, the first mental health center for community-based care, was built on property owned by the Junior League of Nashville; and

WHEREAS, in the ensuing decades, the Junior League of Nashville has grown in membership, in its fund-raising capacity, and in its sophistication of strategies to strengthen the well being of children and families while remaining poignantly focused on health, welfare, and access to arts and cultural experiences; and

WHEREAS, now as the Junior League of Nashville enters its tenth decade, the philanthropy of the organization continues to make possible the life-altering work done by agencies such as Nashville/Davidson County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), Renewal House, and Vanderbilt Children's Hospital, to name only a few of its beneficiaries; and

WHEREAS, the Junior League of Nashville has a long, rich legacy of women reaching their full potential by donating millions of dollars and just as much of their time to improving the quality of life for countless Nashvillians; and

WHEREAS, with a past so rich in devotion and commitment, the Junior League of Nashville will surely enrich the city's future with its continued focus on benefiting and serving organizations and individuals throughout Nashville and Davidson County; and

WHEREAS it is fitting that we pause in our deliberations to honor and commend this excellent community-focused volunteer organization; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor and commend the officers and members of the Junior League of Nashville, past and present, on the occasion of the organization's 90th anniversary, reflecting with deep appreciation on their numerous contributions to their community, this State, and our nation. We wish them much continued success in all of their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.